



Roxann Wedegartner
Mayor

City of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

City Hall • 14 Court Square • Greenfield, MA 01301
Phone 413-772-1548 ext 3 • Fax 413-772-1309
Hannah.Davis@greenfield-ma.gov • www.greenfield-ma.gov

Travis Drury, Chair
Rachel Lindsay, Vice Chair
Erika LaForme
Fletcher Harrington
Christin McDonough

GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, July 27, 2021
Greenfield Department of Planning and Development
Online via WebEx
Greenfield MA 01301

The meeting was called to order by Travis Drury at 6:32 p.m. with the following members:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rachel Lindsay
Travis Drury
Fletcher Harrington
Christin McDonough

ABSENT: Erika LaForme (With Notice)

ALSO PRESENT: Eric Twarog (Acting Agent)
Hannah Davis (Agent in Training)

Note on Meeting Access in light of COVID-19 State of Emergency:

Pursuant to Bill S.2475 Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency, this meeting of the Greenfield Conservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found below. Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the City of Greenfield website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

Should any technical interruption to the meeting occur and the meeting is suddenly ended, it will not be resumed and all items will be automatically continued to the next scheduled meeting date. Contact the Conservation Agent for more information

Administrative Matters: Introduction and Approval of Meeting Minutes from 6/8/2021 and 7/13/2021

Acting Agent Eric Twarog introduced newly hired Conservation Agent Hannah Davis, and noted that Hannah would be observing and taking meeting minutes.

Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to approve the meeting minutes for the June 8, 2021 meeting as amended.

Motion seconded by Fletcher Harrington.

No further discussion – 3-1-0 – Motion Carries



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Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to approve the meeting minutes for the July 13, 2021 meeting as amended.

Motion seconded by Fletcher Harrington.

Request for amendment from Vice Chair Rachel Lindsay regarding the last sentence in the 739 Bernardston Road – Center School section on page 5. Vice Chair Lindsay stated the sentence, “The Commission reached consensus that the placement of the sign will not create any adverse impact to resource areas” and requested that “, and therefore no amendment is needed” be appended to the end of the sentence for the sake of clarification.

No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

Public Meetings/Hearings

➤ **Public Hearing: Notice of Intent: Construction of a new single-family home at 131 Verde Drive; (Map: R17, Lot: 18) DEP File # 151-0343**

Acting Agent Twarog stated that Mr. Warner was unable to put a legal advertisement in The Recorder within the 5 day window preceding the Conservation Commission meeting, and as such will instead be attending the Conservation Commission meeting on August 10, 2021.

Enforcement Updates & Other Business

➤ Enforcement updates

- 21 Spring Terrace (Map 65-9) – unauthorized construction within Riverfront Area.
 - No updates, awaiting review of plantings in the spring.
- 286 Plain Road (Map R34-10) – unauthorized construction within Riverfront Area.
 - No updates.
- 637 Colrain Road (Map R35-7) – unauthorized filling of wetlands.
 - No updates.
- Old Wedgewood Gardens - Kimball Drive (Map 48-24) – unauthorized fill of Riverfront Area.
 - No updates.
- 8 Conway Drive (Map 49-24) – unauthorized fill of Riverfront Area.
 - No updates.
- Bear’s Den Road/Highland Park (Map R01-15) – Erosion and sedimentation of wetland areas.
 - No updates.

➤ 45 Plum Tree Lane – Tree removal request.

- The Commission reviewed a Tree Removal Request filed by Gordon Anderson. Applicant is seeking Commission approval to remove 7 trees encroaching upon the house along the edge of the woodland boundary on the Anderson property. Mr. Anderson requested a plan of action from a local tree removal service and received written confirmation that no heavy machinery would be used to remove the trees and that stumps would be left. The trees were described as having diameters between 5-12 inches. Mr. Anderson informed the Commission that the arborist who visited his property said that the forest has a



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wide variety of tree sizes and will not be significantly affected by the removal of a few trees.

Commissioner McDonough asked what the species of the trees are. Anderson stated that they are all maple trees. Chairman Drury asked if the trees were Norway maple, and Anderson responded that they are all the same type of tree, and he thinks they are sugar maple but isn't sure.

Chairman Drury asked Anderson to identify the trees in the photos provided by former Agent Tragert. Anderson identified the trees with blue ribbons tied around them in the foreground of photo 204760231_953465908840433_4085776161886000761_n, as well as three trees on the edge of the woods in the background of the photo.

Commissioner McDonough asked if the total count was 7 trees, and Anderson confirmed that the total was 7 trees.

Commissioner McDonough stated that the bark looks more like sugar maple bark than Norway maple bark. Commissioner McDonough also noted that Hinsdale Brook is a coldwater fisheries.

Chairman Drury read aloud the arborist's email to the commission, in which it is stated that the forest by the brook is of mixed age trees and well suited to continue giving shade to the brook. Additionally, the arborist does not plan to take their bucket truck past the house. Instead, they will be manually climbing the trees and dragging out the brush.

Anderson confirmed that they are planning on leaving the stumps to provide habitat.

Vice Chairman Lindsay asked Anderson if he would be willing to snag one or two of the trees to provide extra habitat. Anderson stated that he would be willing to consider snagging four of the trees farther away from the house, though is concerned about the possibility of the tree cracking and falling in the yard.

Vice Chairman Lindsay stated that the applicant does not need to request permission to trim branches as long as the tree is not being removed entirely.

Vice Chairman Lindsay asked how old the house is. Anderson stated that the house was built in 1974. Vice Chairman Lindsay noted that this house predates the Wetland Protection Act.

Vice Chairman Lindsay requested that Acting Agent Twarog clarify the concentric green lines on the property map provided. Acting Agent Twarog stated that together the green lines represent the 200 foot buffer zone around the brook, and that each green line represents a 50 foot isoline starting at the boundary of the brook. Vice Chairman Lindsay clarified that this was an estimate, and Acting Agent Twarog confirmed this.



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The Commission requested more clarification for what the buffer was based on, as the river line was not clear in the photo. Acting Agent Twarog explained that MassGIS data was used for the brook location, and the buffer was created based on that data. Vice Chair Lindsay states that, based on the provided aerial imagery, it's clear that the property and the trees are within the 200 foot riverfront area, whether the MassGIS data are accurate or not.

The Commission came to the consensus that the trees are not within the 25 foot no disturb boundary and likely not within a wetland.

Motion made by Vice Chair Lindsay to grant administrative approval for the removal of the seven trees in question at 45 Plum tree Land with special conditions

Motion seconded by Commissioner McDonough

No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

- 193 Barton Road – Tree removal request.
 - Acting Agent Twarog notified the Commission that a Notice of Intent needs to be filed for the construction of a new house at that location. An RDA was previously conducted for the septic system. The applicant intends to include the tree removal request with the Notice of Intent to minimize paperwork.
- Notification of Exempt Utility Maintenance - Y177 Transmission Line.
 - This is a notification of routine work and maintenance. No further discussion required.
- Agent Position Updates.
 - Acting Agent Twarog notified the Commission that Hannah Davis has started as the new Conservation Agent as of Monday, July 26. Acting Agent Twarog plans on taking Agent Davis to every one of the sites on the Project Monitoring and Enforcement lists to give background and overview of each project.

Project Monitoring & Site Visit Scheduling

- List of active Order of Conditions and updates.
 - 195 Mill Brook Road (DEP #: 168-0319, Exp. 9/22/2023) – Solar Project.
 - 739 Bernardston Road (DEP #: 168-0336, Exp. 2/11/2023) – Center School construction.
 - 125 Mohawk Trail (DEP #: 168-0323, Exp. 7/12/2021) – Hotel Construction.
 - Acting Agent Twarog informed the commission that the project is stalled. The hotel developer could not move forward with the project due to finances. Vice Chair Lindsay informed the Commission that the developers will still need to request a Certificate of Compliance from the Commission before they can close the project out, especially in light of prior infractions including stockpiling materials in unapproved areas. The Commission should ensure that the site is left in a stable condition before issuing a Certificate of Compliance. Acting Agent Twarog stated that he would reach out to the property owners following the meeting.
 - 60 James Street (DEP #: 168-0337, Exp. 6/18/2023) – Single-family home.



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- Wisdom Way/River Street/Mill Street Intersection (DEP #: 168-0338, Exp. 10/27/2023) – Roadway improvements.
- 225-245 Mohawk Trail (DEP#: 168-0339, Exp. 5/11/2024) – Big Y vegetation and invasive plant management.
 - Acting Agent Twarog completed an inspection of the site's erosion control measures and found that they were compliant. The project is moving forward.
- Rear Linwood Street (DEP #: 168-0341, Exp. 5/28/2024) – Franklin County Fairgrounds slope stabilization and wetlands restoration.
- 1 Birch Street (DEP #: 168-0340, Exp. 6/8/2024) – Single family home renovation.
- Power Court/River Street/Shelburne Road East ROW (DEP#: 168-0342, Exp. 6/18/2024) – Eversource ROW tree removal, pole removal, new pole installations.

➤ **Set Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, August 10th, 2021**

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 PM

Motion made by Fletcher Harrington to adjourn at 7:30 PM

Motion seconded by Vice Chair Rachel Lindsay

No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

Respectfully Submitted,

Hannah Davis,
Conservation Agent